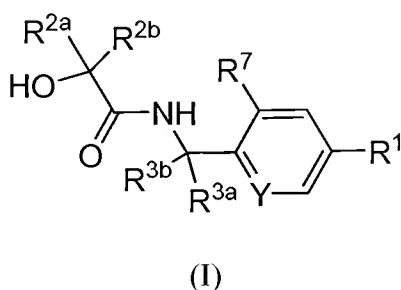


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

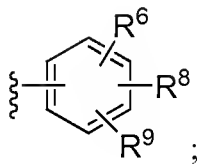
1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



wherein

Y is N;

R<sup>1</sup> is



R<sup>2a</sup> is selected from (1) a group selected from R<sup>a</sup>, (2) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NR<sup>b</sup>C(O)R<sup>a</sup>, (3) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NR<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, (4) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NR<sup>b</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, (5) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, and (6) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>C(O)NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>,

R<sup>2b</sup> is OH or a group selected from R<sup>2a</sup>; or

R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>2b</sup> together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups independently selected from halogen, OR<sup>a</sup>, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl;

R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>3b</sup> are independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, and C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is optionally substituted 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, and wherein said substituent is 1 to 3 groups independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, OR<sup>a</sup> or OC(O)R<sup>a</sup>;

R<sup>7</sup> is selected from hydrogen and halogen;

~~R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently selected from (1) hydrogen and a group from R<sup>6</sup>, (2) C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1-5 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, COR<sup>a</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, OR<sup>a</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>a</sup>, SR<sup>a</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, S(O)R<sup>d</sup>, NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, NR<sup>b</sup>C(O)R<sup>a</sup>, NR<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, and NR<sup>b</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, (3) C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, (4) C<sub>2-8</sub> alkenyl optionally substituted with CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, (5) halogen, (6) cyano, (7) nitro, (8) NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, (9) NR<sup>b</sup>C(O)R<sup>a</sup>, (10) NR<sup>b</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, (11) NR<sup>b</sup>C(O)NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, (12) NR<sup>b</sup>C(O)NR<sup>b</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, (13) NR<sup>b</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, (14) CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, (15) COR<sup>a</sup>, (16) C(O)NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, (17) C(O)NHR<sup>a</sup>, (18) C(=NOR<sup>a</sup>)R<sup>a</sup>, (19) C(=NOR<sup>a</sup>)NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, (20) OR<sup>a</sup>, (21) OC(O)R<sup>a</sup>, (22) S(O)<sub>v</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, (23) SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>b</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, and (24) phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, OR<sup>a</sup>, SR<sup>a</sup>, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl, and (25) OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>;~~

R<sup>a</sup> is selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, OH, SH, O-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, or S-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, (3) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyloxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub>haloalkyl, and (4) C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>b</sup> and R<sup>c</sup> are independently selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 groups independently selected from halogen, amino, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, OR<sup>a</sup>, mono-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, and di-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, (3) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OR<sup>a</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub>haloalkyl, and (4) C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sup>d</sup> is selected from (1) C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, (2) C<sub>1-4</sub>haloalkyl, (3) C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyloxy, and (4) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OR<sup>a</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub>haloalkyl;

R<sup>e</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl, C(O)H and C(O)C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl;

n is 1, 2, or 3;

k is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4; and

v is 0, 1, or 2.

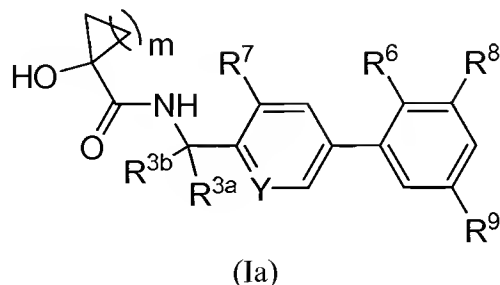
2. (Original) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R<sup>2a</sup>, R<sup>2b</sup> and the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with 1 to 4 groups independently selected from halogen, OR<sup>a</sup>, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl.

3 - 4. CANCELED.

5. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen or 3-halo, and R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen or 5-halo.

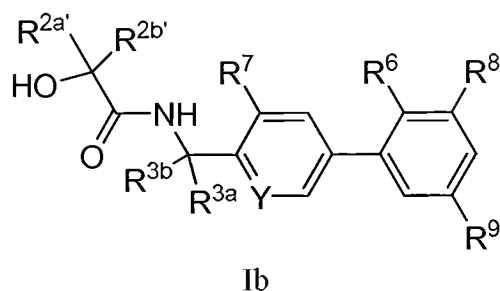
6 - 7. CANCELED.

8. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 having the formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein m is 1 to 5; Y is N; one of R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>3b</sup> is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or methyl; R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or fluorine; R<sup>6</sup> is 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl; and R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently hydrogen or halogen.

9. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

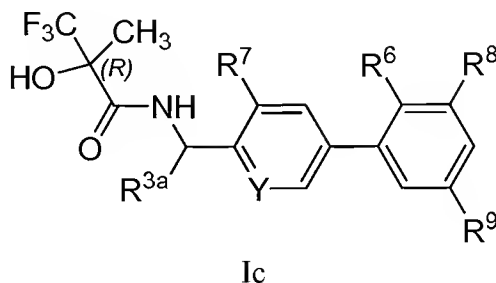


where R<sup>3a</sup>, R<sup>3b</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are as defined in Claim 1, and R<sup>2a'</sup> and R<sup>2b'</sup> are independently selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, SH, OH, S-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl or OC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, (3) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyloxy, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub>haloalkyl, and (4) C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl.

10. (Original) A compound of Claim 9 wherein R<sup>2a'</sup> and R<sup>2b'</sup> are independently C<sub>1-7</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms.

11. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 10 wherein one of R<sup>3a</sup> and R<sup>3b</sup> is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or methyl; R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen, chlorine or fluorine; and R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently hydrogen or halogen.

12. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein Y is N; R<sup>7</sup> is H, chlorine or fluorine; R<sup>3a</sup> is H or methyl; R<sup>6</sup> is 1,2,4-isoxazolyl optionally substituted with a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group; and R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently hydrogen or halogen.

13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14 - 18. CANCELED.

19. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 being (2R)-N-((1R)-1-{5-[5-chloro-3-fluoro-2-(5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)phenyl]-3-fluoropyridin-2-yl}ethyl)-3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropanamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.